अल्जीरिया, बंगलादेश, कनाडा, चेक गणराज्य, आइवरी कोस्ट, कजाकस्तान, पाकिस्तान तथा यूगोस्लाविया में भारतीय राजनयिकों के कुछ पद रिक्त हैं । इनमें से कुछ रिक्तियां शीघ्र ही भर ली जायेंगी तथा अन्य समुचित समय पर भरी जायेंगी ।

(ख) भूटान, ब्रूनी, मालदीव और मंगोलिया में तैनात राजदूतों की कार्यावधि 1995 में समाप्त होगी क्योंकि इनकी नियुक्ति एक नियत कार्यकाल के लिये की गई थी ।

(ग) संवर्ग पद धारण करने वाले राजदूतों की कोई निर्धारित कार्यावधि नहीं होती है ।

US Assertions of Disputed Status of Kashmir

1307. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken note of the US Assistant Secretary of State, Robin Raphel's recent remarks that the status of Kashmir is disputed, that the US is helpless in stopping Pakistan from sponsoring terrorism in the Valley and her anxiety to circumvent the Pressler Amendment;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for US Government's inconsistent stand on Kashmir issue; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to reiterate its stand about the irrevocable accession of Jammu and Kashmir to India and change the US perception, not only on the Kashmir issue but also on the evolution of a new security relationship between US and Pakistan, particularly in the context of the impending visit to USA by the Pakistan Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have seen reports of remarks by the US Assistant Secretary of State about a number of issues relating to the Sub-Continent; including Kashmir, terrorism and the Pressler Amendment.

(b) The US maintains that its position on the Kashmir issue has been consistent and remains unchanged.

(c) Government have consistently maintained that the accession of J&K is irevocable and that it is an analienable part of India. The Government has regularly been briefing other Governments, including that of the US, regarding the actual situation in J&K and the hardship and loss of lives and property caused by Pakistan's unabated support for terrorism in J&K. Government also carefully monitor developments having a bearing in India's security and are committed to taking all steps necessary to safeguard our national interests.

Progress in the identification of Indo-China LAC

1308. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of meetings of Indo-China Expert Group on border issue have been held for identification of line of actual control;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what progress has been made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The India—China Expert Group, which has been set up to assist the India-China Joint Working Group in implementation of the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas has met thrice